25 YEARS WWC

Writing Festival to mark 25 years of the Wits Writing Centre

Thursday, 29 June and Friday, 30 June 2023

Venues: Wits Writing Centre (ground floor of Wartenweiler Library) and the Humanities Graduate Centre.

The Wits Writing Centre (WWC) celebrates its 25th year in 2023. To mark this moment and to reflect on ways in which WWC thinking, networks, interests and sister programmes move into the future, we are holding a two-day festival of writing.

Join us for workshops on writing groups and storytelling, discussions about citizen scholars, Black Consciousness research groups, futures of Writing Intensive courses and writing centres, an appreciation of jazz and heritage, meetings with the WWC alumni and two evenings of book launches.

25 YEARS WWC WITS WRITING CENTRE

WWP THE WITS WRITING PROGRAMME WITS UNIVERSITY

Prof Diane Grayson
I am passionate about promoting success for all students through good teaching, sound curriculum design and holistic support. I believe higher education has a vital role to play not only in providing life-enhancing opportunities for students but also in addressing the many challenges to society and the planet in equitable and sustainable ways. I have worked in higher education in various capacities for over 30 years, as a senior director, university Prof, researcher, physicist, manager, director, vice-principal, consultant, academic faculty developer, curriculum designer, textbook author, teacher educator and mentor. Currently I am Senior Director: Academic Affairs at the University of the Witwatersrand, a research-intensive university with a highly diverse student population, and Personal Prof of Physics. I have oversight at institutional level of university teaching, student learning and success and quality. I make extensive use of systems thinking in my work, and work in a highly collaborative way with students and academic and support staff across the institution.

Prof Pamela Nichols
Pamela Nichols is an Associate Professor and head of the Wits Writing Programme. Her PhD in Comparative Literature (New York University) was guided by the work of Edward Said. Said's understanding of the institutionalization of knowledge as well as her experiences of working with major writing teachers in the US, influenced her establishment of the Wits Writing Centre (WWC) in 1998. Nichols also spear-headed Writing Intensive courses at Wits, through the Wits Writing Programme (WWP), formalised in 2018. Her recent publications have focussed on listening, the development of the citizen scholar, and the deepening of critical thinking within WI courses.

Storytelling workshop

Dr Nomsa Mdlalose
Dr Nomsa Mdlalose is a folklorist, researcher, writer, storyteller and social entrepreneur with over 20 years of experience in storytelling, creative writing, writing and publishing in South Africa and internationally. She is a published author amongst others of children's books, academic articles, and poetry. Mdlalose is the founder of the storytelling company Zintsomi and a founding member of Kwesukela storytelling Academy. She provides storytelling training, mentorship in art and business skills to community groups and individuals and designs storytelling programs. Dr Mdlalose holds a Storytelling Masters Degree from Tennessee State University in the USA and a Doctorate Degree in Folklore from Wits University, where she specialised in African oral Literature and Linguistics. She is the winner of the 2015 Imbokodo Award for the promotion of African languages and storytelling. She has sat on the literature panel of the National Arts Council of South Africa and Freedom Park Council and is currently a board member of the Southern African Folklore Society. Dr Mdlalose drew her initial cultural knowledge from her mother, S'bongile Dlamini, who is gifted in African spirituality and healing.
https://zintsomi.co.za

Welcome to the Wits Writing Centre festival

This writing festival marks 25 years of the Wits Writing Centre (WWC). We hope to provide windows into our work and to offer useful conversations about future projects and collaborations.

The idea of the WWC emerged in 1995 at the first South African writing centre conference at UWC where I met Irene Broekman and Ishbel Hingle who had also come to the conference with the idea of setting up a writing centre at Wits. Together, we raised the funds, and I was appointed as the founding director of the Wits Writing Centre, which was modelled on the highly successful writing centre at New York University. At the beginning our staff were volunteer students, who worked for free in the afternoons. Four of those pioneer consultants, Dr Louis Greenberg, Zweli Sibiya, Dr Dumisani Sibiya and Dr Byron Sherman, will be joining this festival.

Since 1998, the WWC has cast a wide net. We helped to set up the writing centres at the University of Stellenbosch and at the University of Johannesburg, and at Wits were involved in the establishment of the early Law Writing Centre and, more recently, assisted Professor Laura Dison to establish the School of Education Writing Centre. We have co-organized 6 literary festivals and since 2007 have run the writing component of the Wits school project, Targeting Talent. Most recently, we have developed the Wits Writing Programme (WWP), formalized in 2018, which takes writing centre strategies of listening to thinking into mainstream teaching. The WWP is the first formalized Writing Intensive programme in South Africa, and currently comprises 40 discipline-specific WI courses across the university, supported by approximately 400 Writing Fellow tutors. The WWP is now the umbrella pedagogical programme; the WWC falls within the WWP as a resource for writers.

We have been especially fortunate to be significantly supported by leading writers, in our early years, by the late Achmat Dangor, and the late Chris van Wyk, and, more recently, by the late Poet Laureate, Keorapetse Kgositsile who chaired our advisory committee. The work of the WWC and the WWP is now overseen by a Writing of the Board of the Faculties, chaired by Professor Diane Grayson, who understands the rationale and benefit of WI courses from her own earlier teaching experience, and has been a much-valued supporter and guide.

We have also been fortunate to be supported by loyal donors, in particular, by the John Bell Trust whose benefactions have enabled us to establish our significant writing library.

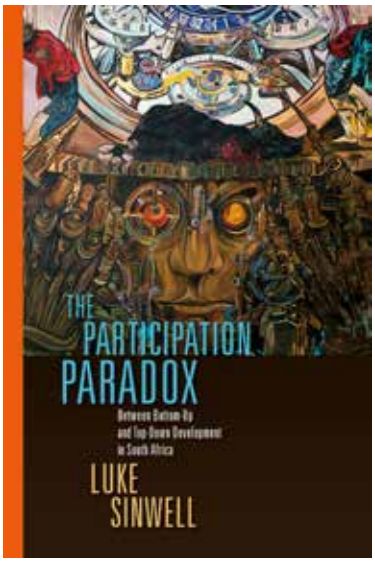
Writing and networks are natural partners in terms of growing thinking and institutional capacity. They create significant opportunities for international conversations and collaborations. We worked with the Ford Foundation Scholarship programme from 2005 to its conclusion in 2011, and conceived and launched its South African legacy book in 2013. More recently, we have worked with Gillian Attwood and the Canon Collins Scholarship programme and are very pleased to welcome their representative, Catherine Sofianos, to this festival. Most recently, we have begun to work with the Open Society of Universities Network, have presented at their international conferences and workshops, with two of our consultants being selected respectively as an international CLASP Writing Fellow (Fouad Asfour), and as a lead scholar in OSUN civic engagement projects (Kgomotso Moshugi).

We hope that this festival will strengthen and expand networks and will be a happy and grateful reunion with the people who created the WWC as well as a fertile thinking ground for those involved in the process of creating our futures.

We also want to recognize, among many others, the significant contribution of the following people to the journey of the WWC so far: Hawa Monier, Liz Trew, Mbongisi Dyantyi, Ishtiyaq Shukri, Marion Drew, Phillippa Yaa de Villiers, Makhosazana Xaba, Siphiwo Mahala, John Rowett, Kgaogelo Lekota and Lerato Seohatse. To partnering with me on the establishment of WI courses, we recognise Professor Liz Brenner, for her generous guidance on ways to establish the WI programme, Professor Martha Townsend.

Professor Pamela Nichols, WWC director and WWP Head

2 Book Launches



Luke Sinwell (2022) ***The Participation Paradox: Between Bottom-Up and Top-Down Development in South Africa.*** McGill-Queens University Press, Montreal.

Debunking the conventional belief that grassroots democracy is always a panacea for the poor and disenfranchised. The last two decades have ushered in what has become known as a participatory revolution, with consultants, advisors, and non-profits called into communities, classrooms, and corporations alike to listen to ordinary people. With exclusively bureaucratic approaches no longer en vogue, authorities now opt for "open" forums for engagement. In *The Participation Paradox* Luke Sinwell argues that amplifying the voices of the poor and dispossessed is often a quick fix incapable of delivering concrete and lasting change. The ideology of public consultation and grassroots democracy can be a smokescreen for a cost-effective means by which to implement top-down decisions. As participation has become mainstreamed by governments around the world, so have its radical roots become tamed by neoliberal forces that reinforce existing relationships of power. Drawing from oral testimonies and ethnographic research, Sinwell presents a case study of one of the poorest and most defiant Black informal settlements in Johannesburg, South Africa - Thembelihle, which consists of more than twenty thousand residents - highlighting the promises and pitfalls of participatory approaches to development. Providing a critical lens for understanding grassroots democracy, The *Participation Paradox* foregrounds alternatives capable of reclaiming participation's emancipatory potential.

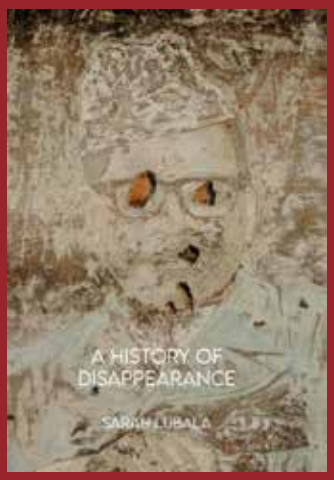
Prof Luke Sinwell completed his B.A. in Anthropology at Hartwick College, New York in 2003. When he visited South Africa as an undergraduate, his imagination was captured by the political developments in the country and, thereafter, he never left. Having completed his M.A. and PhD in Development Studies at Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg in 2009, he has published widely on popular protest and radical theories and practices of participatory governance in South Africa. Luke's work highlights the role of ordinary people in social change and he believes that separating a theory from practice undermines the potential for knowledge to contribute to transformation. He is a former General Secretary of the South African Sociological Association (SASA). An Associate Professor in the Sociology Department, he is the Project Coordinator of the Centre for Sociological Research and Practice (CSRP), UJ, which is currently undertaking research called, "Energy Racism: The South African Electricity Crisis."

Makhosazana Xaba, Athambile Masola, eds. (2023) ***Noni Jabavu: A Stranger at Home.*** Tafelberg, Cape Town.

Noni Jabavu was the first black South African woman to publish books on her life. Her memoirs *Drawn in Colour* and *The Ochre People* have been compared to Zora Neale Hurston's work. A cosmopolitan, free-spirited woman, she returned home in 1977 and wrote a weekly column in the *Daily Dispatch.* This book is a compilation of these cheeky, insightful and hilarious columns for a younger audience of empowered women.

Dr Makhosazana Xaba is an award-winning anthologist and short story writer. She has four collections of poetry, a collection of short stories and has compiled and edited two poetry-centred anthologies. With others, she co-edited three volumes of queer fiction and recently *Foundational African Writers: Peter Abrahams, Noni Jabavu, Sibusiso Nyembezi & Es'kia Mphahlele.* Xaba is currently based at the Centre for the Study of Race, Gender and Class at UJ.

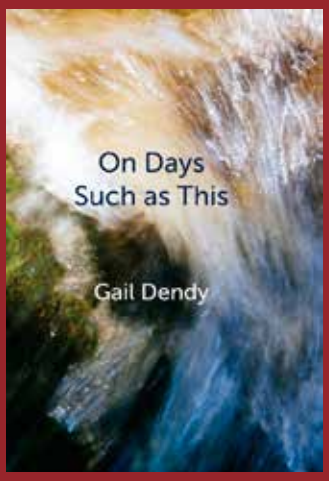
Dr Athambile Masola received her PhD from Rhodes University. Her dissertation was an exploration of black women's life writing with a particular focus on Noni Jabavu and Sisonke Msimang's memoirs. Her primary research focuses on black women's life writing and historiography. Her research is also informed by the early 20th century newspaper archive in South Africa (particularly written in isiXhosa). She is primarily concerned with the nature of erasure and the ways in which multiple forms of reading a variety of texts can inform archival research.



Sarah Lubala (2022) ***A History of Disappearance.***
Botsotso Publishing, Johannesburg.

This debut collection feels as though it should be sung. Many of the poems resonate with an internal music, achieved through strong rhythmic verses and gentle repetition. The titles, too, point us to music, one poem is a "hymn", another a "song". Lubala's focus is on migration, loss, violence and pain – hard subjects, but so tenderly handled that some of the pieces give the impression of lullaby.

Sarah Lubala is a Congolese-born poet. She has been twice shortlisted for the Gerald Kraak Award, and once for The Brittle Paper Poetry Award, as well as longlisted for the Sol Plaatje EU Poetry Award. She is also the winner of the Castello Di Duino XIV prize and the Humanities and Social Sciences Award 2023 for Best Fiction: Poetry. Her debut collection, *A History of Disappearance,* was published by Botsotso Publishing in 2022.



Gail Dendy (2020) ***On Days Such as This.*** Botsotso Publishing, Johannesburg.

From the unusual opening poem (conflating birth with a car crash) to its close (an abandoned suitcase representing an entire lifetime), this book weaves its stories backwards and forwards through time and place. There is insight, sensuality, reflection, surprise, and humour as discovered through various personae – be it a tender mother, a heartbroken widow, or a male poet wrestling with writer's block, as well as in objects such as an old chest of drawers, a bronze-age trumpet, or a piece of string. This compelling collection demonstrates technical and linguistic mastery and genuine philosophical depth. In language that is a joy to read, the poems illuminate the capacity for love, loss, hope, and passion which exists in each and every one of us.

Gail Dendy was first published in the UK by Nobel Laureate Harold Pinter. To date she has eight collections of poetry to her name. Writing accolades include winning the SA PEN Millennium Playwriting Competition, second place in The Red Wheelbarrow Poetry Competition 2021, and shortlistings for the Thomas Pringle Award (Prose) and the Sol Plaatje/EU Poetry Prize. She has been longlisted for Short Story Day Africa, the Twenty in 20 Short Story Project, and the Plough Poetry Prize (UK). 'Highly Commended' accolades include the UK Poetry Space Competition (twice), and the Dinaane Debut Fiction Award (for an unpublished novel). Gail is originally from Durban. She has distinguished herself as a gymnast and dancer (ballet and contemporary) and is passionate about being close to nature.

Kabelo Mofokeng (2023) ***Hungry on Arrival.*** Botsotso Publishing, Johannesburg.

My collection embraces different kinds of poetry. Some poems come via my home in Pimville Soweto, the urban sounds and multilingual speech patterns as I move through it. Other poems draw on Sesotho culture and tradition, which still run strongly in my family, and at times, I integrate the different kinds of sounds and associations of Sesotho and English in the same poem. Another important aspect is my retracing the rural and forgotten footsteps of Mzanzis legendary artists, in the same way that Zim Ngqwana's *Abomagoduka* narrates the journey of men leaving their homesteads to seek work in the mines and cities. I believe poetry, like jazz, allows one to knock on the void of silence. In this way I celebrate the lives of artists and poets such as Mafika Gwala, Jackson Hlungwani, Kippie 'Morolong' Moeketsi and Fana Zulu. Other poems are dense and self-reflective in the manner of Arthur Nortjie or Angifi Dladla.

Kabelo Jazzmeneer Mofokeng is a Sowetan-born poet and cultural worker with a deep love for music. He is a graduate of the MA in Creative Writing Course offered at Rhodes University. He has co-curated spoken word and multimedia performances, as well as interactive photography exhibitions within township areas in the major Afropolitan city of Johannesburg. He has published poetry, prose and photo essays in a number of Pan African literary journals. Included are *Botsotso, New Contrast, Thyini, Poetry Potion,* and *To Breathe into another Voice: An Anthology of Jazz Poetry.* In his own words, Mofokeng says, "Music is the palm-oil in which I feast on lyric".

Thursday 29 June

9.00- 9.15	**The Wits Writing Centre, Wartenweiler Library, Ground Floor** **Welcome: Prof Diane Grayson** Professor Grayson is the Senior Director: Academic Affairs. The Wits Writing Programme (WWP), which includes the Wits Writing Centre (WWC), falls within her area of responsibility.
9.15- 9.30	**Overview of Festival from Prof Pamela Nichols** Professor Nichols heads the WWP and the WWC, which she founded with two other colleagues in 1998.
9.35- 10.35	**Storytelling workshop with Dr Nomsa Mdlalose** Dr Mdlalose was our storyteller in residence and taught us about the power and subtlety of African storytelling and how it can change a room and thereby create different authorities.
10.45- 11.45	**Writing group workshop with Lori-Jo Bateman** Lori-Jo is a Senior Writing Fellow in the WWC who has been working closely with the Canon Collins scholar writing group.
12.00- 13.00	**Citizen Scholars: Catherine Sofianos, Lerato Mlahleki, Nelisiwe Mofutsanyana, Dr Wacango Kimani, in discussion with Lerato Seohatse** The WWC understands writing as thinking and aims to promote the active critical thinking which is necessary for participative democracy. The scholars on this panel, on their own initiative, imagined and made practical significant literacy development projects.
	Break and change of venue
14.00- 15.00	**The Graduate Centre for Humanities – Seminar Room** **Where are you now? Conversations among WWC alumni** Our alumni are spread far and wide and are doing very interesting work. This session offers the chance to catch up, to promote networks and to consider the suggestion of forming a WWC alumni organization. Alumni or associates participating today or tomorrow include: Tracy Sprott Grandin, Dr Louis Greenberg, Prof Roberta Hunte, Dr Siphiwo Mahala, Itumeleng Mamabolo, Goitse Manthata, Niq Mhlongo, Lebohang Mojapelo, Prof Grace A. Musila, Prof Nedine Moonsamy, Prof Thabisani Ndlovu, Dr Byron Sherman, Dr Dumisani Sibiya, Prof Luke Sinwell, Zwelibanzi Sibiya WaseNkanini.
15.15- 16.45	**The Graduate Centre for Humanities – Atrium** **Mamelodi Arts & Culture Forum (MACFO) (Mfanufikile Motau, Aubrey Mogase Manoko Mokgonyana) and Jazz Appreciators (Bizza Buthelezi, Zodwa Bopape, Moment Maditsi, Classina Nhlapo, William Lubisi), introduced by Prof Brett Pyper.** 'The sociability of jazz' provides language, art and community. Join us for an afternoon's appreciation and thought about how to document culture and heritage.
	Change of venue
17.00- 18.00	**The Wits Writing Centre, Wartenweiler Library, Ground Floor** **Book Launch: Dr Makhosazana Xaba, Dr Athambile Masola, eds. *Noni Jabavu: A Stranger at Home*** Happily for us, Khosi has launched all her books at the WWC. This is the wonderful latest which she will present and discuss with Athambile Masola.
	Break
18.30- 19.30	**Book Launch: Prof Luke Sinwell, *The Participation Paradox*** Luke Sinwell is a Sociology Professor, and a teacher influenced by Paulo Freire's understanding of literacy as liberation and the need for the oppressed to first describe their world in order to change it.

Friday 30 June

9.00- 10.00	**The Wits Writing Centre, Wartenweiler Library, Ground Floor** **Tracing memories, writing workshop facilitated by Philiswa Lila and Fouad Asfour** Explore with us writing as/in a space, where writing moves memories, languages and drawing.
10.00- 11.00	**Visual Artists On Writing: Panel with Philiswa Lila, Pebofatso Mokoena, Londiwe Mtshali, Mzwanele Tshishonga, convened by Fouad Asfour** The *Collaborative Poetics* Writing Group has been meeting weekly over the past three years, bringing together visual artists and writers. The panel will reflect on the benefits of writing groups, the role of writing in/as (visual) creative practice and the significance of collaborative publishing.
11.30- 12.30	**Black Consciousness Journeys: Black Consciousness Collective (BCC) in conversation with Black Praxis (BP).** Discussions led by Lerato Seohatse and Thabang Manyike and other members of the BCC and BP. The BCC was formed 15 years ago and is based in the WWC. The BP is a new group of lecturers and scholars seeking to build and record black scholarship. This conversation is between different generations of engagement sharing a BC orientation.
	Break and change of venue

13.30- 14.30	**The Graduate Centre for Humanities – Seminar Room** **Ways forward for WI courses** Writing Fellow tutors and Writing Intensive lecturers Lori-Jo Bateman, Babalwa Bekebu, Sandile Buthelezi, Dr Stephanie Enslin, Dr Ilse Fouche, Leyya Hoosen, Dr Wacango Kimani, Traver Mudzonga, Mandisa Zulu, in discussion with Pamela Nichols about what is working and what might work better in current WI courses.
14.45- 15.45	**Writing Centre futures? International discussions and shifting local realities** Conversation with Prof Laura Dison, Dr Motlatso Rampedi-Godongwana, Marike Kluyts and Prof Pamela Nichols: How do writing centres adapt to different modes of learning, work with Writing Intensive courses, promote better writing across the curriculum, and ensure a coherent university-wide response to promoting better writing?
16.00- 17.00	**Where are you now? Conversations among WWC alumni continued**
	Change of venue

17.30- 19.00	**The Wits Writing Centre, Wartenweiler Library, Ground Floor** **Book launch: Botsotso publishers present new poetry collections from Gail Dendy, Sarah Lubala, and Kabelo Mofokeng** Botsotso have launched their publications at the WWC and partnered with the WWC in creating literary festivals. This launch celebrates three of their poets and closes the festival for this year.

6 Citizen Scholars

The Wits Writing Centre understands writing as thinking and aims to promote the active critical thinking which is necessary for participative democracy.

The scholars on this panel, on their own initiative, imagined and made practical significant literacy development projects.

Lerato Mlahleki is a justice driven person, with a particular passion for education. In 2018, she worked as a writing fellow and consultant at the WWC and as tutor for the Sociology department. In 2022 she taught English as a foreign language in South Korea. Lerato is delighted to currently be working at the Centre for Deaf Studies & at the WWC once again. Lerato enjoys reading, writing, making art and immersing herself in nature. She dreams of publishing her own books, building a centre for learning, building libraries in underserved communities and opening a book cafe that doubles up as a plant store.

Lerato Seohatse is a senior writing consultant at the WWC. He has worked in several policy, social justice and human rights organisations such as the National Cooperatives of South Africa (NCASA), the Centre of Education and Policy Development (CEPD), the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) and the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR). As a student, Lerato was also instrumental in the formation and the life of the student initiative Black Consciousness Collective (BCC). Lerato has presented and written on the subject of Black Consciousness and various social justice issues on a number of platforms.

Catherine Sofianos is Communications Specialist for the Canon Collins Trust. She is a writer and creative projects director and has worked in development communication for 17 years. She is a pioneer at heart and is passionately committed to using writing and visual storytelling to influence social change. She has a master's in applied linguistics and a pending master's in film and television.

Nelsiwe Mofutsanyana is a former consultant at the WWC, has supported the establishment and running of reading clubs and language support programmes mainly in schools, as well as libraries and literacy organisations. With a special interest in multi-modal approaches to literacy and multi-lingualism, she works in education strategy where partnerships and relationships complement and strengthen the work at the literature and basic education nexus.

Wacango Kimani is a Wits academic. An inclusive teacher and teacher educator who has pivoted into online teaching and entrepreneurship on YouTube.
@teacherwacango

Mamelodi Arts and Culture Forum: Mfanufikile Motau, Aubrey Mogase, Manoko Mokgonyana.

Jazz Appreciators: Bizza Buthelezi, Zodwa Bopape, Moment Maditsi, Classina Nhlapo, William Lubisi, introduced by Prof Brett Pyper.

The Cosmopolitan Collective includes dancers (diggers), musicians, DJs, poets, heritage workers and researchers. Their other affiliations include the Wits School of Arts, the Tshwane Jazz Veterans, and the Mamelodi Arts and Culture Forum and Committed Artists for Cultural Advancement (MACFO). Several members attending this festival are working collaboratively to honour jazz veterans through a writing project supported in kind by the WWC.

MACFO is a non-profit organisation dealing with matters of the arts, culture and heritage in Mamelodi and beyond. It is based at Solomon Mahlangu Freedom Square (Mamelodi Art Center).

Contact: macforumart@gmail.com, social media: @mamelodiarts

Black Consciousness Journeys: Black Consciousness Collective (BCC) in conversation with Black Praxis (BP). Discussions led by Lerato Seohatse and Thabang Manyike and other members of the BCC and BP.

The BCC was formed 15 years ago and based in the WWC. Black Praxis (BP) is a new group of lecturers and scholars seeking to build and record black scholarship. This conversation is between different generations of engagement sharing a BC orientation.

Thabang Manyike is a PhD candidate at the Political Studies Department at Wits University. His research is based on emancipatory politics and revolutionary theories of change. Focusing on the Black and Islamic intellectual traditions in South Africa and the Muslim world particularly prioritizing African Muslim communities.

8 Tracing Memories / Visual Artists On Writing

The Collaborative Poetics Writing Group has been meeting weekly over the past three years, bringing together visual artists and writers. The panel will reflect on the benefits of writing groups, the role of writing in/as (visual) creative practice and the role of collaborative publishing.

Philiswa Lila is a visual artist and researcher who obtained her MA in Art History at Rhodes University, Makhanda. Her work is concerned with memory, histories and theories of personal experiences, identities and subjectivities. She is the 2018 recipient of the prestigious Gerald Sekoto Award, which included a residency at the Cite Internationale des Arts in Paris. Lila is currently an artist-in-residency at the GendV Project: Urban Transformation and Gendered Violence in India and South Africa hosted by the University of Johannesburg and the University of Cambridge. Lila has presented her research in conferences such as African Feminisms (Afems), 14th National Conference of the South African Journal of Arts History (SAJAH), 34th Annual South Africa Visual Arts Historians (SAVAH) and Narrative Enquiry For Social Transformation (NEST) Colloquium & Summer School. Her most recent written work is an essay published in Creative Knowledge Resource Bopa Writers' Forum.

Pebofatso Mokoena born in 1993, and emerging from early practice in drawing and printmaking, Mokoena's artistic practice is formally underscored by precise mark-making and division of space, while exploring ideas around scalable maps of visual art, architecture and the environment, which are, in theory, getting smaller and smaller.

Londiwe Mtshali obtained her Bachelor of Arts Honours in Fine Art at the University of the Witwatersrand in 2020 and a National Diploma in Fine Art majoring in Printmaking and Sculpture. Mtshali has also exhibited at the Gallery 114 (USA) , National Art Festival, Turbine Art Fair the Bag Factory, A4 Art Foundation and KwaZulu-Natal Society of Art. Her work is themed around ubungoma, secrecy in traditional practices, and politics of language.

Mzwanele 'Rez Inyanzi' Tshishonga is an explorer of narratives, whose work draws from indigenous knowledge systems, and represents aspects of blackness in his photography and films. A Market Photo Workshop alumnus, he received the Media and Advocacy mentorship in 2022. He has held two solo exhibitions of his work Ukulandela Umoya, the latest of which was at Rhodes University. He has been curating spaces and projects in and around the Eastern Cape in interaction with creatives within his community in Gqeberha. He is currently pursuing an Honours degree at Wits.

Fouad Asfour is a Senior Writing Fellow at WWC and CLASP Writing Fellow at the IWT at Bard College, researching and preparing spaces for writing as collaborative practice. He is PhD candidate at WSOA where he researches silences of first languages in the borderlands of writing through multi-modal translanguaging practices. He holds an MA in Linguistics from Vienna University, Austria, and an MA in Creative Writing from Rhodes University, Makhanda. He received the Igor Zabel Award for Culture and Theory working grant in 2008.

Lori-Jo Bateman is a serial English and Philosophy student with Writing Intensive teaching experience in different departments. Currently, she is a Senior Writing Fellow at the WWC and a Senior Writing Intensive Tutor at the ADU. She is also a part of the Canon Collins Writing Group headed by Gillian Atwood.

Babalwa Bekebu holds an MSc in Medicine (Bioethics and Health Law) from Wits. Her research focuses on promoting and improving healthcare access policies for the most vulnerable groups in South Africa. She has worked in various spaces within the university that contributed to her growth in academia. She has been a junior lecturer in Health Science and Writing Fellow and Consultant at the WWC. She is currently working in healthcare regulatory affairs. She is the former Chairperson of the Wits Postgraduate Association (PGA) (2018-2020), where she served two terms. She served two terms in the Wits Student Representative Council (SRC) on the Wits Council board and Senate. She remains dedicated to fostering progressive change wherever she is and believes in participating in uplifting community initiatives.

Dr Stephanie Enslin has been a lecturer in Geoscience at Wits since 2019. As head of the teaching and learning portfolio in the school she has sought to understand gaps in the students' knowledge, and better ways to prepare students for industry. Report writing is an important skill in Geosciences and therefore a Writing Intensive course was introduced in the school at first year level in 2019. Stephanie assisted in growing the writing intensive courses at second and third year level in 2022. These courses are focused around mapwork reports after field trips to KZN and Parys. Stephanie aims to expand this writing focus to writing groups at postgrad levels.

Dr Ilse Fouche is a senior lecturer at the division for Languages, Literacies and Literatures at the Wits School of Education. Previously, she was the coordinator of an academic literacy intervention at the University of Pretoria's four-year programmes in Mamelodi. As part of her PhD studies, she proposed and implemented an evaluation design for assessing the impact of academic literacy interventions. Her research interests lie in creating effective discipline-embedded academic literacy interventions, optimising language learning by means of blended learning strategies, and integrating socially embedded community engagement elements into university curricula.

Leyya Hoosen is a PhD candidate in Socio-Cultural Anthropology at Wits, specialising in Digital and Critical Religion Anthropology. Her research follows online women-led prayer groups in South Africa. She is interested in what it means to be a woman in Islam in SA in the digital age. She explores alternate ways of engaging an Anthropology of Islam and the role that cyberspace and the virtual plays in allowing women in Islam to create and re-create counter publics that allow for expressions of Islam that resonate with their lived experiences. Leyya is a Wadsworth African Fellow, funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation, one of the leading international Anthropology funders. The scholarship supports PhD candidates who are exploring cutting-edge research in their fields of expertise.

Traver Mudzonga is a consultant arts manager, art-creative director, creative industries business strategist, dramaturge and researcher. He holds a BTech with Honours in Creative Art and Design (2009), Honours in Applied Drama (2016) and a MA in Arts and Culture Management (2019). He is a researcher on creative economies, arts-culture intellectual property and emerging markets. Currently, he is a PhD candidate at Wits. as part of his research practice on arts-culture Economic Institutions across southern Africa with a focus on music digital economy.

10 Writing Centre Futures

Conversation with Prof Laura Dison, Dr Motlatso Rampedi-Godongwana, Marike Kluyts and Prof Pamela Nichols:

How do writing centres adapt to different modes of learning, work with Writing Intensive courses, promote better writing across the curriculum, and ensure a coherent university-wide response to promoting better writing?

Prof Laura Dison is an Associate Professor in the Curriculum Division at the Wits School of Education and was appointed Assistant Dean for Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Humanities in 2020. She is the Coordinator of the Post Graduate Diploma in Education (in the field of Higher Education) which is a professional qualification for lecturers and is Academic Coordinator of the Wits School of Education Writing Centre. She is involved in collaborative research projects in teaching, learning, assessment and writing development in higher education.

Ms Marike Kluyts holds a M.A. in Language Studies, as well as certificates in Academic Advising (AA) and Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) and is currently pursuing her PhD. She is a Postgraduate Writing Specialist in the Postgraduate Writing Unit which forms part of the CLM Teaching and Learning Unit at Wits. Her focus and research interests are linked to (i) helping students acquire Academic Literacies (AL), Research Literacies, and grapple with aspects of Academic Integrity, (ii) support Writing Intensive lecturers with embedding AL in their courses, and (iii) to develop initiatives in student support. Her current research focusses on the disciplinary identity formation of postgraduate students through writing practices and the possible influence of Artificial Intelligence on authorial identity.

Dr Motlatso Rampedi-Godongwana is an Academic Skills Development Consultant for the Wits, Faculty of Science, a Senior Scientist for the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) and an elected member of the Convocation of the University of the Witwatersrand. She completed her doctorate degree in Demography and Population studies at the University of the Witwatersrand. Her doctoral thesis employed mixed-methods to assess the time taken before HIV positive adults develop additional chronic conditions and the challenges pertaining to treatment and management of HIV chronic comorbidities. She has experience working in HIV research and has several publications in the field. Her research interests are in innovations in health education. Motlatso has been named among the Mail & Guardian's Top 200 Young South Africans (2018).

Dr Louis Greenberg is a Johannesburg-bred author, editor and writing tutor. He was a bookseller for several years, and has a Master's degree in vampire fiction and a doctorate in post-religious apocalyptic fiction, both from Wits. Louis' first novel, *The Beggars' Sign-writers*, was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize. He's also the author of the alt-reality mysteries *Dark Windows, Green Valley*, and *Exposure*. As S.L. Grey, he co-wrote five horror novels with Sarah Lotz, including *The Mall* and *The Apartment*. Based in Warwickshire, England, he is a freelance editor specialising in genre fiction. He also tutors creative writing and drama writing at Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education and professional editorial courses for the Chartered Institute of Editing and Proofreading, where he is an Advanced Professional Member.

Prof Roberta Hunte is an Assistant Professor at Portland State University's School of Social Work. She received her M.S. in Conflict Resolution from PSU, and her doctorate from the University of Manitoba in Peace and Conflict Studies. She is affiliate faculty in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Black Studies. Hunte is a community engaged Black feminist scholar, whose academic interests include sexual and reproductive justice, cultural work for social change, and how Black, Indigenous, and People of Color navigate institutions: particularly construction, maternal healthcare, and higher education. Her creative critical scholarship includes the theatre piece *My Walk Has Never Been Average,* and short film *Sista in the Brotherhood,* both informed by her research with Black tradeswomen and devised theater piece entitled *We are BRAVE,* based on reproductive stories from people of color and transgender people.

Dr Siphiwo Mahala is a multi-award-winning author, playwright and academic. His debut novel, *When a Man Cries,* was published by UKZN Press in 2007. He is the author of two short story collections, *African Delights* (2011) and *Red Apple Dreams and Other Stories* (2019), and two critically acclaimed plays, *The House of Truth* and *Bloke and His American Bantu*. His latest book *Can Themba: The Making and Breaking of the Intellectual Tsotsi*, was published by Wits University Press in 2022. He is a graduate of the University of Fort Hare, holds a Masters degree in African Literature from Wits University, and a PhD in English Literature from UNISA. He is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Johannesburg, Senior Fellow at the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study, and editor of Imbiza Journal for African Writing.

Niq Mhlongo is a Sowetan-born writer, educator, editor, and a travel journalist who graduated from Wits University with a BA degree (African Literature and Political Studies) in 1997. He has written four novels – *Dog Eat Dog* (2004), *After Tears* (2007), *Way Back Home* (2013), and *Paradise in Gaza* (2020) – and a collection of short stories, *Affluenza* (2016), and *Soweto, Under the Apricot Tree* (2018). He also edited a bestselling collection of essays called *Black Tax, Burden or Ubuntu* (2019), two short story anthologies called *Joburg Noir* (2020), and *Hauntings* (2021). His novel *Dog Eat Dog* won the Spanish Literary Award Mar Der Letras Intenecionale in 2006. His collection of short stories, *Soweto Under the Apricot Tree* won the Herman Charles Bosman Literary Prize For English Fiction and the Nadine Gordimer Short-Story Award in 2019. *Joburg Noir* anthology won the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Science Best Fiction Edited Volume. His new collection of short stories is published in May by Kwela Books.

Prof Nedine Moonsamy is an Associate Professor in the English department at the University of Johannesburg. She is currently writing a monograph on contemporary South African Fiction and otherwise conducts research on science fiction in Africa. Her debut novel, *The Unfamous Five* (Modjaji Books, 2019) was shortlisted for the HSS Fiction Award (2021), and her poetry was shortlisted for the inaugural New Contrast National Poetry Award (2021).

12 Wits Writing Centre alumni

Prof Grace A. Musila teaches African literature at the University of the Witwatersrand. She is editor of the *Routledge Handbook for African Popular Culture* (2022) and Wangari Maathai's *Registers of Freedom* (2020); author of *A Death Retold in Truth and Rumour: Kenya, Britain and the Julie Ward Murder* (2015); and co-editor (with Michael Titlestaad and Karl van Wyk) of *The Plague Years* (2022) and *Rethinking Eastern African Intellectual Landscapes* (2012, with James Ogude and Dina Ligaga).

Prof Thabisani Ndlovu is Acting Dean in the Faculty of Law, Humanities and Social Sciences at Walter Sisulu University. He is an Associate Professor of literature and cultural studies whose interdisciplinary work focuses on the intersections of race, gender and class in Southern Africa. Deploying this approach, the overarching subjects he has written on include literary imaginations of human rights, nation and nationhood, monuments and memorialisation, migration, masculinities, black middle classness, and whiteness. In addition to being an academic, Thabisani is also a writer of fiction. His short stories have appeared in various anthologies, most notably the Caine Prize for African Writing of 2009. He is a recipient of several academic fellowships. Before joining WSU, he was Deputy Director of the International Human Rights Exchange Programme at Wits University.

Dr Byron Sherman was born in Johannesburg and was one of the earliest writing consultants at the WWC, joining in 1998 while completing his honours in English. He went on to teach English at the National School of the Arts where he implemented and researched writing-based pedagogical approaches before being accepted into a master's program at Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2007. After a brief stint back in South Africa, he left for China in 2008 and lived there for fourteen years. He worked in a variety of educational institutions in China while completing a PhD through Wits on the history of the presentation of Black American and African literature to Chinese readers up to and including the Maoist period. He is currently the head of Cognitive Education at Roedean School.

Dr Dumisani Sibiya holds an MA from the University of the Witwatersrand and a PhD from the University of Johannesburg. He is currently a lecturer at the University of Johannesburg. Dr Sibiya is an award-winning novelist, short story writer and poet. Having written, collaborated, and edited more than 20 published books, Sibiya is a three times winner of the Sanlam Prize for Youth Literature (2002; 2006 and 2010), winner of the K Sello Duiker Memorial Award (2010), the Muntu Xulu Award for Short Stories (2005) and the UJ Prize for Creative Writing (2021).

Prof Luke Sinwell completed his B.A. in Anthropology at Hartwick College, New York in 2003. When he visited South Africa as an undergraduate, his imagination was captured by the political developments in the country and, thereafter, he never left. Having completed his MA and PhD in Development Studies at Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg in 2009, he has published widely on popular protest and radical theories and practices of participatory governance in South Africa. Luke's work highlights the role of ordinary people in social change and he believes that separating a theory from practice undermines the potential for knowledge to contribute to transformation. He is a former General Secretary of the South African Sociological Association (SASA). An Associate Prof in the Sociology Department, he is the Project Coordinator of the Centre for Sociological Research and Practice (CSRP), UJ, which is currently undertaking research called, "Energy Racism: The South African Electricity Crisis." In 2022, the book *The Participation Paradox: Between Top-down and Bottom-up Development in South Africa* was published by McGill-Queens University Press, Montreal.

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WITS WRITING CENTRE

The methods we learned at the writing centre felt modern and progressive and undid so many of my assumptions about education that went before. Teaching could be collaborative and supportive rather than a trap to show you how much you don't know, which is how it had often felt to me. That idea has informed my tutoring ever since.

(Dr Louis Greenberg, Senior Writing Consultant, Writing Project pilot 1996-7)